

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS GRANT, MAZUR, HOGUES,
LOUGHRAN & McCracken**

RE: Supporting the Countywide Initiative of PUSH (People United for Sustainable Housing) to Expand Its Job Creation Efforts and Energy Efficiency Program for Homeowners

WHEREAS, People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) announced a major, countywide energy-efficiency program on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 16, 2012, to help people seal drafty homes and lower their utility bills; and

WHEREAS, this countywide program of PUSH is part of a statewide initiative that will work with local contractors and provide training to approximately 200 persons to retrofit homes; and

WHEREAS, the two-year goal of PUSH is the complete retrofitting of a minimum of 300 homes; and

WHEREAS, the local program will achieve three outcomes: 1) to make heating costs more affordable, leaving families with greater financial resources to provide for themselves; 2) to enable individuals and families to live in a more comfortable indoor environment throughout the winter; and, 3) to impart skills that can be utilized for immediate job placement in energy conservation and later transferrable to private sector job opportunities in housing rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the skilled jobs to be created by the “green energy” improvements PUSH will provide to these homeowners will be compensated by wages that can support a family, further providing a positive economic impact well beyond the initial family participating in the program; and

WHEREAS, PUSH estimates that homeowners will be able to save 20% or 30% on their utility bills; and

WHEREAS, the program start date is January 30, 2012 and homeowners begin the process by accessing a free energy audit; and

WHEREAS, if the energy audit calculations reach a threshold whereby the work will eventually pay for itself, the family becomes eligible for a retrofit through low-rate financing of 2.9 percent that will be added onto utility bills; and

WHEREAS, the low-interest loan program is available only through utilities that combine gas and electric, such as National Grid, but is not limited to low-income individuals; and

WHEREAS, the “community jobs pipeline” and job training opportunities afforded by this new program will prepare individuals in our community for higher-paying jobs and will open up a new market for women and minority contractors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body stand in full support of the new countywide energy conservation and job creation initiative to be undertaken by People United for Sustainable Housing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to the Executive Director of PUSH.

FISCAL IMPACT: Positive for the homeowners who will benefit from this program.